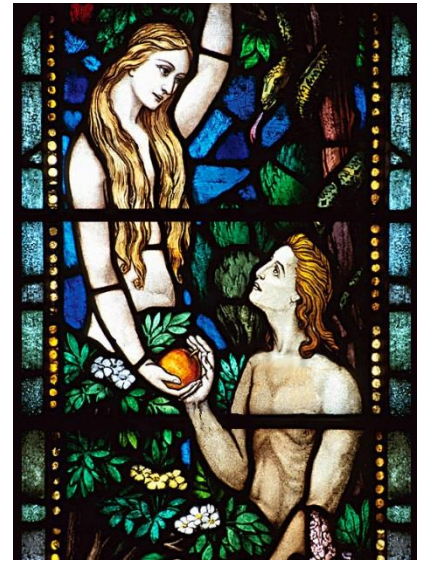


Original Sin

The concept of **Original Sin** refers generally to the Christian belief in the universal nature of sin.

Original sin is thought to be the result of the story of Adam and Eve in The Bible. In that story, God only made one rule for them: they must not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But the snake told Eve, that eating the fruit would make Eve like God. Eve then persuaded Adam to eat the fruit. After they had broken God's only rule, they were removed from the Garden of Eden.



Then Genesis tells the story of how their oldest son Cain killed his brother Abel. Based mostly on this and many other stories and passages in the Bible like this one: “sin entered the world because one man, Adam, sinned, and death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people”. Christians traditionally believe that no human is without sin and only the way we behave in life can free us from this sin.

Many religious Victorians would have believed this to be true, and this idea links closely to the respectable front which many of them displayed publicly – their reputation was important to them and repressing their darker, sinful side would have helped them to maintain this reputation.